

Ann Landers in Russia

Reds Deny Drink Problem; 'Sobering Stations' Busy

(This is the tenth of a series of 12 articles by the author of America's most popular human relations column.)

By ANN LANDERS
MOSCOW—Russia talks dry at it drinks wet. I discussed alcoholism with lawyers, professors, doctors, writers, aids, taxi drivers, and factory employees. Everyone says it is no problem. But it's apparent they're kidding themselves—or they were trying to kid me.

"There are no bars or cocktail lounges in Russia," my interpreter boasted. And this is true—but the drunks on the street and in the restaurants demonstrate enough that the Russians who want liquor are getting plenty to drink.

While the citizens deny there is excessive drinking in the Soviet Union, the government is taking bold steps to do something about it. In 1957 a law was passed limiting each restaurant patron to 100 grams (about two shots) of vodka. The ruling does not prevent people from going from restaurant to restaurant, however.

WHEN IT WAS pointed out to a government official that the 100 gram rule was a farce, he had this to say: "We know it does not solve the problem, but the walk between drinks helps a lot."

A popular gimmick to get around the 100 gram law is to bring a bottle of vodka from home to celebrate a birthday.

I saw an unbelievable number of Russian "birthday parties." Vodka is 80 per cent alcohol and packs a mean wallop. The government has steadily raised the price to discourage drinkers and vodka is now expensive. A liter (which is a generous quart) costs \$3.10. As the price of vodka rises the price of wine drops. Four vodka plants have been closed in the last 18 months and the penalty for operating home stills has been doubled. Anyone caught making vodka in the bathtub must spend two years in jail.

I LEARNED from a Russian lawyer that the government was forced to clamp down on the vodka drinkers because factory absenteeism due to hangovers was increasing. He also pointed out there were too many "vodka soaked" court cases involving crimes of passion and family problems.

Moscow has seven sobering up stations. Russian winters are so bitter a drunk would freeze to death in a matter of a few hours if he were left lying in the street. A policeman or a friend usually brings the drunk to a sobering up station. Sometimes he wanders in alone.

He is given a steam bath, a cold shower, hot black coffee, and a bed for the night. His clothes are taken and returned the next day, washed and ironed. There is a fee of \$1.

No jail sentence or fine is imposed unless the drunk has been in a brawl, used vulgar language or been involved in a fight with a policeman. If a drunk patronizes the station too frequently he may wind up in jail.

ALCOHOLISM among Russian women is uncommon. I never saw a Russian woman drunk in public. I saw many men in restaurants who were rowdy and well plastered but the women accompanying them seemed sober.

The female habitual drinkers are usually prostitutes, I was told. They have a difficult time plying their trade since laws against prostitution are rigidly enforced. Hotel rooms are assigned only to travelers from other cities who are armed with passports.

A prostitute cannot check into a hotel because her passport shows a local address. Most prostitutes (as they are called) visit clients in the morning when it is easier to walk unnoticed by hotel desk clerks which operate on every floor of almost every hotel.

A TAXI DRIVER who is caught procuring clients for a prostitute or permitting his cab to be used as a portable bedroom is fined heavily. For a second offense he must serve a jail sentence and can no longer operate a taxi.

Students caught associating with prostitutes are temporarily suspended from school and put on "probation." A third offense means dismissal from school and "assignment" to a job.

Although there are no statistics, Russian students do not frequently run afoul of the law. Perhaps they are too busy to get into trouble or perhaps they are aware of what can happen to one who finds himself at the mercy of Russian "justice."

RUSSIAN LAW is shot through with cruel inequities. Prof. Harold Berman, a professor of law at Harvard University, told me in a Moscow courtroom that "an American can't appreciate what a magnificent instrument our own constitution is and how it protects the rights of the individual until he witnesses the Russian legal machinery in action."

In Russia, a person suspected (not convicted) of a crime may be picked up and held incommunicado for as long as a year without benefit of formal charges. He cannot see family, friends or a lawyer. While he languishes in jail his accuser may be gathering all sorts of evidence against him.

According to Russian law, if the prosecution does not feel the verdict is harsh enough, the prosecutor can appeal the case and try to get the punishment increased. A Russian woman may take her husband to court and charge him with

rape if he forces her to have relations against her will. Incest, however, is considered "a family affair" and seldom reaches the courts.

THE MOST shocking aspect of Russian "justice" is the parasite laws. Every factory, collective farm or working unit has its own small committee. If this committee decides by a majority vote that a person under its jurisdiction is not putting in an honest day's work, he is labeled a parasite and can be sent to a labor camp. A parasite has no recourse: the decision of the committee is final.

I learned not only that loafers were banished in this way, but also people suspected of prostitution, dope peddling, black-marketing, and ticket scalping. When I asked a Russian judge what would prevent an affluent man in a community from framing and railroad out of town the husband of a woman he desired, he shrugged his shoulders and said "Ettah jahl." (Too Bad.)

When I inquired about the penal system in Russia, I learned it is one of the most enlightened and advanced in the world. This represented a challenging adjustment in my thinking. It was astonishing that a country whose archaic

laws trample on the basic rights of the people should be so advanced in terms of punishment.

RUSSIAN PRISONERS are often rehabilitated. They work and learn. They are paid \$100 a month, \$80 of which goes to the family. Thus a prisoner's family does not become the ward of the state. If a prisoner has no trade when he enters he has one when he leaves and is well equipped to be a useful citizen.

The cell system has long been abolished and prisoners sleep in dormitories. Married men may have their wives visit them overnight a few days every month. They are provided with private quarters and the government pays for the wife's transportation.

"American prison authorities ignore the basic emotional instincts in men. One of the main worries a man has when he is in prison is what his wife is doing in his absence. If he is permitted to be with her, this solves the problem from both sides.

"This eliminates the problem of homosexuality which we understand is a big problem in American prisons."

When a man has served his time, his record is "clean." His prison record does not appear on his internal passport or his work record.

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Brownie Troop 1557

October was a busy month for the girls and leaders of Brownie Troop 1557. Aside from their many projects during their troop meetings, they found time to take a trip to the Southwest Museum in Highland Park.

It was a memorable occasion and was enjoyed by all.

Then for a happy conclusion to the month's activities, a Halloween Costume Party was held at the leader's home. It included a dinner cooked by the girls followed by many exciting games and stories.

Those participating in the month's festivities were: Mrs. Mammie Wareing, leader; Mrs. Joyce Bergon, co-leader; and Brownies Carol Hamilton, Sharon Hamilton, Darlynn Deuschle, Shirley Wareing, Nancy Wareing, Donna King, Lebra O'Brien, Teresa Olvera, Mary Olson, Sherry Pulley, Christina Bergon and Kathy Rodella.

The troop is sponsored by the 223rd St. PTA.

Scout Troop 743

The Mothers Auxiliary for Scout Troop 743 met Wednesday night at the home of Marge Thomas for their monthly meeting.

Plans were made for the coming Christmas party for the Boy Scouts and their families. The party will be held on Dec. 14 at the Youth Hall, 1409 W. 253rd St., Harbor City. Gloria Blum and Evelyn Hampton will be in charge of the refreshments. Christmas favors will be made at the home of Eloise Barton on Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Marge Thomas surprised Mae Murakami with a birthday cake and refreshments were served.

Next auxiliary meeting will be held at the home of Sonia Thurber, 1541 W. 248th St. on Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

The Boy Scouts cleared \$124.81 at their recent Halloween Carnival.

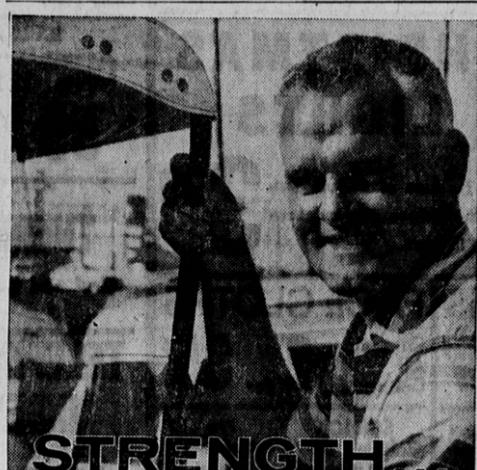
Brownie Troop 2168

Brownie Troop 2168 had an especially rewarding November outing. The girls attended the movie "The Big Fisherman." To earn the right to attend, the girls had to bring signed notes from their mothers that they had completed three

chores at home.

The girls were thrilled by the beautiful colors and scenery of the exceptionally good story.

Members of the troop are Diane Binyon, Sharon Cohen, Linda Grier, Janis Gibilisco, Ellen Hall, Sandra Hall, Clara Hirschfeld, Debbie Henderson, Karen McBee, Cathy Miller, Marcia Roberts, Cindy Sisco, Marcia Stohlman, and Kassie Rockhold. Leaders are Katy Binyon and Doris Hall.



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Creates Natural Moisture Balance ...Helps Smooth Dry, Scaly Skin

Only "TIME OUT" with N.M.F. 100 lets skin breathe and drink in moisture to help restore a dew-like complexion. You'll feel its smoothing results on the first application. Not only does it moisturize, but it also lubricates.

Tiny Age Signs Dim and Fade

Tiny wrinkles and crows' feet around the eyes, nose and mouth, first tell-tale signs of approaching age, quickly begin to fade and become unnoticeable because "TIME OUT" helps restore the natural moisture balance.

Cosmetic scientists have recently developed an utterly new skin moisturizer called "TIME OUT" with Natural Moisture Factor 100% (N.M.F. 100) which may prove to be the most wonderful discovery ever found to keep exposed areas of skin young-looking, soft, smooth, pliant and radiantly beautiful. It acts in the skin, not on it. Imagine this! One little dab of "TIME OUT" Moisture Balance Lotion containing scientifically developed N.M.F. 100%, applied at night, seeps in—sets up a natural moisture balance, which helps you to regain a more youthful-like complexion, while you sleep. Within seconds after first application you'll notice an amazing cool, silk-like softness, which promises the return of 'teen-age texture. That's but the first step in your exciting new skin care discovery. Then, in the morning, pamper your complexion with a touch of "TIME OUT" Moisturizer—it disappears immediately—moisturizes—creates a dew-like, satin FEEL under your make-up. Never greasy, never messy—it's delicately fragrant and kind to your skin. Truly this is the "young skin" emulsion you've been waiting for.



Your Mirror Will Reveal Marvelous Results and Prove You've Found a New, Easy Way to Bring Back Youthful-Like Texture.

If you are over 25 and your skin is becoming dry, flaky, blemished, rough, red, chapped, weather-beaten or old-looking, chances are nature is failing to supply natural fluids which tend to keep your skin satin-soft. Sensational laboratory discovery proves that lack of moisture—not lack of oils—causes dry, crepey, wrinkled skin. That's why "TIME OUT" is so different—acts different. If you want long-lasting, exciting results you must condition your skin by using a "moisturizing agent." "TIME OUT" helps establish a normal balance of moisture in your skin.

Wrinkles, Crows' Feet Dim and Fade—Signs of Age Quickly Disappear. Skin on Face, Neck, Hands and Arms Becomes Youthful-looking and Glamorous.

New "TIME OUT" with "N.M.F. 100" coaxes skin to drink in and retain its rich lubricating and moisturizing properties, causing skin to become firm and smooth. Tense, worry and frown lines (wrinkles and crows' feet) soften and disappear. Bothersome age spots react noticeably because a healthy youthful skin retards formation of age-revealing pigment clots under the surface. "TIME OUT" may truthfully be called the modern way to young skin beauty.

New "TIME OUT" is a skin-youth cream for anyone over 25, brings wonderful, noticeable results "almost overnight". Try "TIME OUT" for one week. If you're not completely satisfied—your money will be refunded on request. Only \$3.50 plus tax—approximately 3 months' supply.



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